

Application No. 10/585,697

Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment Dated March 16, 2011

Reply to Office Action Dated October 5, 2010 and

Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment Dated March 9, 2011

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 5, 2010, has been carefully considered by the Applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Priority

The Examiner requires that Applicant submit a certified copy of the foreign application under 35 U.S.C. §119(b). However, the present application is the national stage application of corresponding PCT application number PCT/GB05/02341. Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Notification from the International Bureau confirming transmission of the priority application to the International Bureau. The Examiner is requested to review and confirm that the International Bureau has properly transmitted the priority document to the U.S. Patent Office. If not, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent Office contact the International Bureau to complete the priority for this application. The Applicant's claim for priority is thus hereby reiterated.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicates that the Applicant did not provide an Information Disclosure Statement citing the references from the corresponding International Search Report. In fact, the Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on August 13, 2007, listing the references from the parent application's International Search Report and the corresponding priority application's Great Britain Search Report. Another copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is attached hereto. Confirmation of receipt by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Claims 35-39, 41, 43-46, 48, 53-60, 62-67 and 72-74 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sim U.S. Patent No. 6,259,786 (hereinafter "Sim '786"). Claims 40, 42, 47, 49-52, 61 and 68-71 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sim '786.

By the present Amendment, claims 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 56, 58, 60-62, 64 and 74 are cancelled, thus rendering the rejections thereof moot.

The remaining claims are selectively amended to more clearly distinguish over the prior art, including Sim '786.

Claim 35

Claim 35 recites a *queue management system for managing access to a plurality of services for a group of people having a mobile personal communicator*. Claim 35 now recites that the *registration pack comprises ID tag elements comprising portable tabs respectively including ID values for identifying the members of the group*. These aspects in combination with the remaining aspects of claim 35 are not disclosed by Sim '786, which discloses a portable module 1 that is carried by an individual or group. Portable module 1 is inferior to the claimed invention in that it suffers from the drawbacks discussed at page 4, lines 7-18. Specifically:

While they avoid the disruption problem, short range radio systems do not eliminate secondary queuing. Since there is a potential problem of non-return, the issuing of a communicator to a person wishing to use the system is a non-trivial action that entails various checks and probably some form of deposit. As a consequence, queues can form at the communicator issuing stations, and at busy periods the waiting time in these secondary queues can be half an hour or more.

In hospital and other health-related applications, short range radio systems suffer from a further problem. A communicator that has been used by one person is subsequently re-used by some other person, but as small electronic devices the communicators are not well suited for sterilisation.

In addition, claim 35 recites *a processor coupled with the interface means to receive communications from the personal communicator via the mobile telephone network, the processor being responsive to a said communication including a communicator address and the registration code for generating a registration record for the group representing the group size, the ID values and the communicator address*. This is also not disclosed by Sim '786, which merely discloses a processor 40 that receives messages from a transmitter 4 based upon short range radio transmission. Again, this

suffers from the drawbacks disclosed in the above-recited passage from the present application. Claim 35 requires a *processor that receives communications from the personal communicator via the mobile telephone network*, whereas the disclosure of Sim '786 relies on short-range radio systems. This is a clear difference.

The combination of claim 35 thus provides significant advantages over the disclosure of Sim '786 with respect to selection of respective service amongst a plurality of services to enter a group of people into a virtual queue line for that service. According to claim 35, *access control apparatus at the respective service is responsive to presentation of the ID tag elements for reading each respective ID tag element and for comparing the ID values with the registration record in order to evaluate whether access to the respective service should be permitted or prevented*. Each *ID tag element* which comprises a *portable tab* is a more efficient and effective means for controlling the queue. Furthermore, Sim '786 contains no disclosure of an arrangement permitting the use of a standard mobile phone for communicating with a group to control access to the plurality of services.

Accordingly, the combination of claim 35 addresses the problem of designing a queue management system that is capable of dealing with a group, including a plurality of individuals in, for example, a theme park including a plurality of services, in a manner which is easy and cost-effective to implement and which is simple to employ, reliable and effective in mass operation, and robust against abuse. The solution of issuing a registration pack to each user group including an information carrier and portable tabs for each member of the group; and by permitting communication between the user group and the overall system through a standard mobile phone, avoids the costs and inconvenience of installing and maintaining complex dedicated electronic units.

Claim 35 is thus believed allowable over the disclosure of Sim '786. Allowance of claim 35 is accordingly requested.

Claims 37, 38, 41 and 44-55

Claims 37, 38, 41 and 44-55 depend from claim 35 and are thus believed allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Such action is respectfully requested.

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Claim 57

Claim 57 has been amended in line with claim 35 and therefore the distinctions discussed above regarding claim 35 apply to claim 57. Claim 57 is believed to be allowable over the disclosure of Sim '786. Allowance of claim 57 is thus accordingly requested.

Claims 59, 63 and 65-73

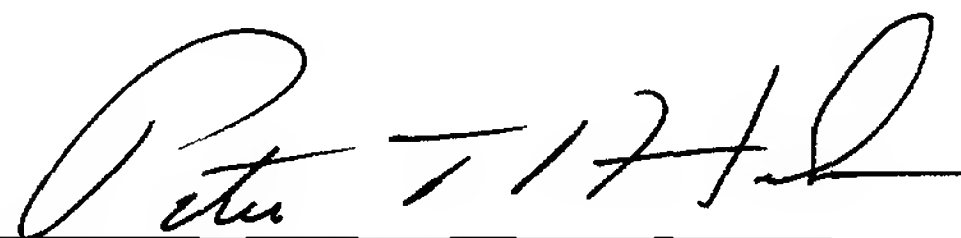
Claims 59, 63 and 65-73 depend directly or indirectly from claim 57 and are thus believed allowable at least for the reasons stated above. Such action is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The present application is thus believed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter T. Holsen", written over a horizontal line.

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